

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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R 300822Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8958

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RVL

SUBJECT: DEVEGA MURDER

REF: MANILA 15090

1. NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HAS ANNOUNCED THAT DEVEGA SLAYING WAS RESULT OF PERSONAL MISUNDERSTANDING. PAULINO ARCEO WAS APPARENTLY PETITIONING DEVEGA FOR FORGIVENESS OF 30 PER CENT ENTERTAINMENT TAX ON RECENTLY MAGIC SHOW HE (ARCEO) PROMOTED. IT HAD BEEN FINANCIAL DISASTER. ARECEO REPORTEDLY "BLACKED OUT" WHEN DEVEGA (WITH WHOM HE HAD MANY PREVIOUS DEALINGS) REFUSED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT AN ANY LENGTH.HE THEN SHOT PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS SECRETARY. ARCEO WHO IS BEING CHARGED WITH MURDER AND ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS (A SMITH AND WESSON REVOLVER HE PURCHASED IN NEW YORK CITY), WILL BETRIED BY A MILITARY TRIBUNAL.

2. THERE HAS BEEN COPIOUS OUTPOURING OF PUBLIC GRIEF FOR SLAIN PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT. PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS PAID CONDOLENCE CALLON DEVEGA WIDOW AT FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OCT 29. FYI DESPITE PUBLIC AVOWALS OF GRIEF, DEVEGA, A LONG-TIME MARCOS HATCHET MAN WITH REPUTATION FOR CORRUPTION, APPEARS TO HAVE FEW REAL MOURNERS, AT LEAST AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES. END FYI.

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3. MALACANANG SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF OCTOBER 29 DEVEGA'S SECONDARY POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF CENSORS IS TO BE FILLED BY PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT JUAN TUVERA. FOR THE MOMENT NO SUCCESSOR TO DEVEGA WILL BE APPOINTED, BUT PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT JACOBO CLAVE (CONCURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION) WILL PROBABLY TAKE ON APPOINTMENTS JOB ON INTERIM BASIS. MALACANANG SOURCE NOTED THAT APPOINTMENTS RESPONSIBILITY WAS FORMERLY LOCATED IN OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BUT OPINED MARCOS WOULD NOT GIVE MELCHOR'S OFFICE THIS RESPONSIBILITY AGAIN.

4. COMMENT: MANILA RUMOR MILL IS GENERATING VARIOUS "EXPLANATIONS" OF DEVEGA'S DEATH, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY HE WAS ELIMINATED BY ORDERS OF SOME COLLEAGUES IN GOVERNMENT. EMBASSY NOT DISPOSED, HOWEVER, TO CREDIT THESE EXPLANATIONS AND BELIEVES DEVEGA'S DEATH MOST PROBABLY RESULT OF PERSONAL DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN HIM AND ARCEO. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: PINT, RP, (DEVEGA, GUILLERMO), (ARCEO, PAULINO), (LAQUI, LARRY)
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